

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claim 15 in accordance with the following:

1. - 9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A digital document discussion method, comprising:

a document storage step of storing a digitized document including a plurality of templates corresponding to documents in a document database;

an attribute information storage step of storing attribute information on a user including a discussion requester and a discussion participant in an attribute information database;

a template providing step of providing a template corresponding to a document to be discussed out of the templates stored in the document database to a first client at the discussion requester based on a work process relating to the document and the attribute information;

a discussion document creation step of creating the discussion document based on the template at the first client;

a material information accumulation step of accumulating a plurality of items of material information;

a discussion request step of transmitting a discussion request with the discussion document from the first client to a second client at a discussion participant requesting the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document transmitted and displayed at the second client;

a search step of searching material information associated with the discussion document from the plurality of items of material information; and

a material information providing step of providing the material information searched in the search step to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document.

11. (previously presented) A digital document discussion method comprising:

a document storage step of storing a digitized document including a plurality of templates

corresponding to documents in a document database;

an attribute information storage step of storing attribute information on a user including a discussion requester and a discussion participant in an attribute information database;

a template providing step of providing a template corresponding to a document to be discussed out of the templates stored in the document database to a first client at the discussion requester based on a work process relating to the document and the attribute information;

a discussion document creation step of creating a discussion document based on the template;

a discussion request step of transmitting a discussion request with the discussion document from the client to a second client at a discussion participant requesting the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document transmitted and displayed at the second client;

a search step of searching material information designated by the discussion participant from a plurality of items of material information associated with the discussion document requested in the discussion request step;

a material information providing step of providing the material information searched in the search step to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document; and

a discussion step of allowing the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document displayed at the second client.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) A digital document discussion program for allowing a computer to function as:

a document storage unit which stores a digitized document including a plurality of templates corresponding to documents in a document database;

an attribute information storage unit which stores attribute information on a user including a discussion requested and a discussion participant in an attribute information database;

a template providing unit which provides a template to corresponding to a document to be discussed out of the templates stored in the document database to a first client at the discussion requester based on a work process relating to the document and the attribute information;

a discussion document creation unit which creates the discussion document based on the template at the first client;

a material information accumulation unit which accumulates a plurality of items of

material information;

a discussion request unit which transmits a discussion request with the discussion document from the first client to a second client at a discussion participant requesting the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document transmitted and displayed at the second client;

a search unit which searches material information associated with the discussion document from the plurality of items of material information; and

a material information providing unit which provides the material information searched in the search unit to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document.

14. (previously presented) A digital document discussion program for allowing a computer to function as:

a document storage unit which stores a digitized document including a plurality of templates corresponding to documents in a document database;

an attribute information storage unit which stores attribute information on a user including a discussion requester and a discussion participant in an attribute information database;

a template providing unit which provides a template corresponding to a document to be discussed out of the templates stored in the document database to a first client at the discussion requester based on a work process relating to the document and the attribute information;

a discussion document creation unit which creates the discussion document based on the template at the first client;

a discussion request unit which transmits a discussion request with the discussion document from the first client to a second client a discussion participant requesting the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document transmitted and displayed at the second client;

a search unit which searches material information designated by the discussion participant from a plurality of items of material information associated with the discussion document from the plurality of items of material information; and

a material information providing unit which provides the material information searched in the search step to the discussion participant when discussing the discussion document; and

a discussion unit which allows the discussion participant to discuss the discussion document displayed at the second client.

15. (canceled)